(b) to (d) The Central Government had advised the State Government to strengthen the presence of Central Para-Military Forces (CPMF) by re-deployment. The State Government was also advised to requisition Army at places having large concentration of Bihari population for maintenance of law and order and instilling confidence among the local population. The Central Government had also provided 25 additional Coys of CPMFs to the State.

Concern over Rape Cases in Delhi

143. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the media report 'Court concerned over rapes in Delhi which appeared in this media recently;

(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard;

(c) whether a higher-power Co-ordination Committee will be constituted to review present crime situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (e) The Government has seen media reports to this effect. The Supreme Court of India has in Writ Petition. No. 489 of 2003 issued notice, *inter-alia*, to the Union of India to show cause as to why Rule Nisi in terms of the prayer of the petition should not be issued. One of the prayers in the said petition relates to constitution of a permanent High Power Co-ordination Committee to review the present crime situation in Delhi and take immediate remedial action. The matter has been posted for hearing before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on the 15th December, 2003.

Tamil as Official Languages of Union Government

144. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware of the demand for declaration of 'Tamil' as one of the official languages of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sita Kant Mohapatra to make recommendation, *inter-alia*, on the feasibility of treating all languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitutiuon, including Tamil, as Official Languages of the Union. The Government will consider the recommendations of the Committee and take a suitable decision in the matter.

Undertrials in Jails

145. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 75 per cent of jail population in India are undertrials;

(b) if so, the total jail population and the number of undertrials;

(c) the State-wise details of the percentage of the undertrials and duration of their stay;

(d) the expenditure on account of their stay in jails; and

(e) the steps being taken to reduce the burden of undertrials in the jails which are in fact already over crowded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) According to available statistics 70.4% of the jail population were undertrials at the end of 2001.

(b) and (c) As per the information available with this Ministry as on 31-12-2001, 2,20,817 undertrails were lodged in various jails against the total jail population of 3,13,635. The State-wise details of percentage of undertrials and duration of their stay are given in Statement I and II respectively. (See below).

(d) The statistics on expenditure on account of stay of undertrials in jails are not maintained centrally.

(e) The Government of India has introduced a new non-plan scheme for modernization of Prison Administration to be implemented over a